

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (canceled)

2. (currently amended) A switching device comprising:

a plurality of input ports each being connectable to a
corresponding switch adapter;

a plurality of output ports;

at least one switch controller for controlling the
routing of incoming data packets from said input
ports to said output ports;

a congestion controller associated with each of said
output ports, each of said congestion controllers
being adapted to generate grant information to
indicate whether said switch adapters can send a
data packet to the associated output port; and

a data packet access controller associated with each of
said input ports, each of said data packet access
controllers being adapted to mark as non-compliant
any packet which is erroneously sent by said switch
adapters,

~~The switching device according to claim 1,~~ wherein the
data packet access controller additionally
comprises a timer wherein data packets which arrive

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at said input port before a predetermined time interval has passed after the time the grant information signaling non-allowance has been generated are marked as non-compliant.

3. (currently amended) The switching device according to claim 2 ~~claim 1~~, wherein each output port comprises an buffer and means for determining a filling degree for said output buffer and wherein the congestion controller is assigned to an output buffer at the output port based on one of the overflow of the buffer filling degree over a first threshold and underflow of the buffer filling degree under a second threshold.
4. (currently amended) The switching device according to claim 2 ~~claim 1~~, wherein the grant information comprises one or more bits per output port.
5. (currently amended) The switching device according to claim 2 ~~claim 1~~, wherein the grant information of all output ports of the switching device is communicable to each switch adapter.
6. (canceled)
7. (currently amended) A switching device comprising:

a plurality of input ports each being connectable to a
corresponding switch adapter;

a plurality of output ports;

at least one switch controller for controlling the routing of incoming data packets from said input ports to said output ports;

a congestion controller associated with each of said output ports, each of said congestion controllers being adapted to generate grant information to indicate whether said switch adapters can send a data packet to the associated output port; and

a data packet access controller associated with each of said input ports, each of said data packet access controllers being adapted to mark as non-compliant any packet which is erroneously sent by said switch adapters,

~~The switching device according to claim 1,~~ wherein the output buffer is a common output buffer with addresses for the data packets, and said switching device comprises an input router and an output router, and an address-manager for managing the use of said addresses of said common output buffer, an output-queue-manager for entering order information, about at which addresses said data packets are stored in said common output buffer, into output queues which are connected to said output router.

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8. (original) The switching device according to claim 7, wherein the output queues provide in total more queuing places for the order information than the common output buffer has addresses.

9. (canceled).

10. (currently amended) A method of controlling the routing of data packets through a switching device having a plurality of input ports and a plurality of output ports, each of said input ports being connectable to a corresponding switch adapter, and having at least one switch controller for controlling the routing of incoming data packets from said input ports to said output ports, comprising the steps of:

generating, by a congestion controller associated with each of said output ports, grant information which signals whether said switch adapters are allowed to send a data packet to the associated ~~data packets~~ ~~to said~~ output port; and

marking as non-compliant any data packet which is erroneously sent by said switch adapters,

~~The method according to claim 9,~~ wherein data packets are marked as non-compliant only after a predetermined time interval has passed from the time the grant information signaling non-allowance has been generated.

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11. (currently amended) The method according to claim 10
~~claim 9~~, wherein the grant information is determined
by the relation of the buffer filling degree of an
output buffer at the output port to one of a first
threshold and a second threshold.
12. (currently amended) The method according to claim 10
~~claim 9~~, wherein the grant information is generated in
form of a grant bit per output port.
13. (currently amended) The method according to claim 10
~~claim 9~~, wherein the grant information for all output
ports of the switching device is communicated to each
switch adapter.
14. (original) The method according to claim 13 wherein
the grant information for all output ports of the
switching device is provided in form of a bit map.
- 15-20. (canceled)

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